

PUBLIC HEALTH DEPT.  
ARTS COLLECTION COPY



Ux BRIDGE  
(later Mun B)

URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL OF UXBRIDGE

# ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE  
MEDICAL OFFICER  
OF  
HEALTH

FOR THE YEAR 1951



O. C. DOBSON, M.D., B.S., L.R.C.P., M.R.C.S., D.P.H.,  
B.Hy., D.P.A., Barrister-at-Law



# STAFF OF THE PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT

## *Medical Officer of Health :*

O. C. DOBSON, M.D., B.S., L.R.C.P., M.R.C.S., D.P.H., B.Hy.,  
D.P.A., Barrister-at-Law.

## *Chief Sanitary Inspector :*

V. E. BAUGHAN, F.R.San.I., M.S.I.A.

(Certificate of Royal Sanitary Institute, Sanitary Science Certificate, Meat  
and Food Inspector's Certificate and Smoke Inspector's Certificate).

## *Deputy Chief Sanitary Inspector :*

A. S. HIBBERT, M.S.I.A.

(Certificate of Royal Sanitary Institute, Meat and Food Inspector's  
Certificate).

## *Sanitary Inspectors :*

S. A. CASH, M.R.San.I.

(Certificate of Royal Sanitary Institute, Meat and Food Inspector's  
Certificate).

G. PUTTICK

(Certificate of Royal Sanitary Institute, Meat and Food Inspector's  
Certificate).

G. HOLMES

(Certificate of Royal Sanitary Institute, Meat and Food Inspector's  
Certificate).

## *Chief Clerk :*

A. J. BENSON

(Certificate of Royal Institute of Public Health and Hygiene).

## *Clerks :*

MISS D. M. AGER.

MISS J. HUTCHINSON.

MISS D. G. HAWKER.

## *Pupil Sanitary Inspector :*

E. J. HACKER.



# Annual Report

OF THE

## MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

### 1951

---

PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT,  
259, HIGH STREET,  
UXBRIDGE,

*July, 1952.*

### TO THE CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS OF THE UXBRIDGE URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

MR. CHAIRMAN, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

I have the honour to submit my Annual Report on the Health of the District for the year ended 31st December, 1951.

The vital statistics set out in the report do not call for any detailed comment here, although it is with considerable pleasure that I draw attention to the low infant mortality figure of 15.2. Last year in my report I recalled that in 1900 the infant mortality rate for Uxbridge was 173, and the then Medical Officer of Health said "the infantile death rate is a delicate test of the sanitary condition of a district." It is, of course, too much to expect such a low figure as 15.2 to be maintained, one reason being that the numbers on which the calculations are based are comparatively small, but it is hoped that the general trend will continue.

The notifications for measles and whooping cough were both more numerous than last year, but those for scarlet fever were less so; there was no death from any of these diseases. No notification was received of any case of diphtheria; this is a matter of great satisfaction and proves the value of the immunisation arrangements in the district. The continued suppression of diphtheria depends entirely on the immunity state of babies, toddlers and school children, and it is hoped that all parents will continue to co-operate in accepting immunisation for their children as they have done so willingly in the past.

The position in relation to vaccination is much less encouraging. Although there was, fortunately, no case of smallpox in the district in 1951, the nearness of the two airports—London and Northolt—gives rise to constant anxiety, as the importation of a case of smallpox from abroad may occur at any time. Far too few babies are now being vaccinated, and sooner or later this neglect will have its consequences. Infant vaccination does more than provide young children with an immunity to smallpox which



can be expected to last for some considerable time; it also ensures that any subsequent vaccination, performed perhaps as an emergency measure because of contact with a case, but more probably as a routine procedure required by reason of service in the Armed Forces or by travel to a country where smallpox is prevalent, will be less likely to cause a severe local reaction causing temporary disability, or be followed by other more serious complications which, though very rare, are more often found following the primary vaccination of adults.

The work of previous years in improving the standard of food hygiene was continued and intensified during 1951. Individual approach to the food trader and handler remained the basis of the attack, and very satisfactory co-operation from those concerned has been secured. Indeed the position has now been reached when the help and advice of the department is freely sought on all kinds of matters dealing with food hygiene. Although the Clean Food Byelaws have been in force since April, 1950 (all food traders have been given a copy), no action under these powers has been necessary. It is felt that the continuation of this goodwill between the department and the traders must be kept up and if possible still further improved, so that the maximum co-operation can be secured. Food hygiene is an advancing science—it can never remain static because of continual new discoveries, especially in bacteriology. The methods advised, therefore, are subject to variation as time goes on, and when goodwill is assured, there is no difficulty in persuading the introduction of new methods, more especially when individual approach and instruction is being used.

No amount of work on food hygiene directed solely at the trader or handler can be of the slightest value without the full co-operation of the family—and particularly the housewife—in the home. This is one of the most useful fields of health education, and it is felt that here the personal health services must play their part. The health visitors through their home visiting use this opportunity to full advantage, following the method of personal approach and demonstration at the actual place of work—and in their role as school nurses they are able to give instruction on this subject to the older pupils. The education of these future citizens in the principles of food hygiene generally and food hygiene in the home in particular seems to be a matter of paramount importance.

This illustrates the close liaison between the personal health services (provided by the County Council) and the environmental services (which are the responsibility of the District Council) which is made so easy because of my dual appointment as Area Medical Officer for County Council services and Medical Officer of Health to the Council.

It is an unfortunate thing that the National Health Service Act seems now to be firmly settled down into three separate compart-

ments: the hospital, general practitioner and local authority services. Only the latter is really concerned with prevention and the whole balance seems to be at fault if anything more than lip service is to be paid to the idea of prevention being better than cure. No great progress will be made as long as we are paying so high a cost for our health services, roughly in the ratio of 60% on hospital services, 30% on the domiciliary curative services, and 6% on prevention. A redistribution of expenditure in favour of the preventive services will be necessary before it will be possible to reduce the cost of the health service generally.

It is a pleasant task once again to say how excellent has been the work and collaboration of Mr. Baughan, the Chief Sanitary Inspector, and the other members of the staff of the Public Health Department—they have without exception maintained the very high standard reached in previous years.

I am,  
Your obedient servant,

O. C. DOBSON,  
*Medical Officer of Health.*

### AREA

Total area of District ... .. 10,237 acres.

### POPULATION

The Registrar-General's Estimate of Population for the mid-year 1951 is 55,060.

### TOTAL BIRTHS

<i>Sex</i>	<i>Live Legitimate</i>	<i>Live Illegitimate</i>	<i>Stillborn Legitimate</i>	<i>Stillborn Illegitimate</i>	<i>Total</i>
Males ...	417	25	10	—	452
Females ...	396	17	6	1	420
Totals ...	813	42	16	1	872

### BIRTH RATE

	No.	Birth Rate	Basis	
LIVE BIRTHS	855	15.53	Per 1,000 Registrar-General's estimated Resident Population	
STILL BIRTHS	17	19.50	Per 1,000 total ( <i>i.e.</i> live and still) births	
TOTAL BIRTHS	872	15.84	Crude Rate	Per 1,000 Registrar-General's estimated Resident Population
		14.88	Corrected Rate	

The Birth Rate for England and Wales was 15.86.

In calculating the Birth Rate (Total Births only) the crude rate of 15.84 has been adjusted by the Registrar-General's Area Comparability Factor of 0.94 to give a figure of 14.88 per thousand of the estimated population. This allows for age and sex distribution of the inhabitants of the district and enables a proper comparison to be made with other districts or the country as a whole.

## DEATHS AND DEATH RATE

There has been an increase in the number of deaths from 469 to 505 and the crude Death Rate has increased from 8.50 to 9.17 per 1,000 of the Registrar-General's estimated population; the corrected Death Rate increasing from 10.28 to 11.00.

	Total Deaths (All Causes)	Death Rate (per 1,000) Registrar-General's estimated Resident Population.
Male ...	259	9.17 Crude Rate
Female ...	246	
TOTAL ...	505	11.00 Corrected Rate

The Death Rate for England and Wales was 12.5.

The application of the Area Comparability Factor of 1.20 to the crude Death Rate of 9.17 has increased the figure to 11.00.

## INFANT MORTALITY

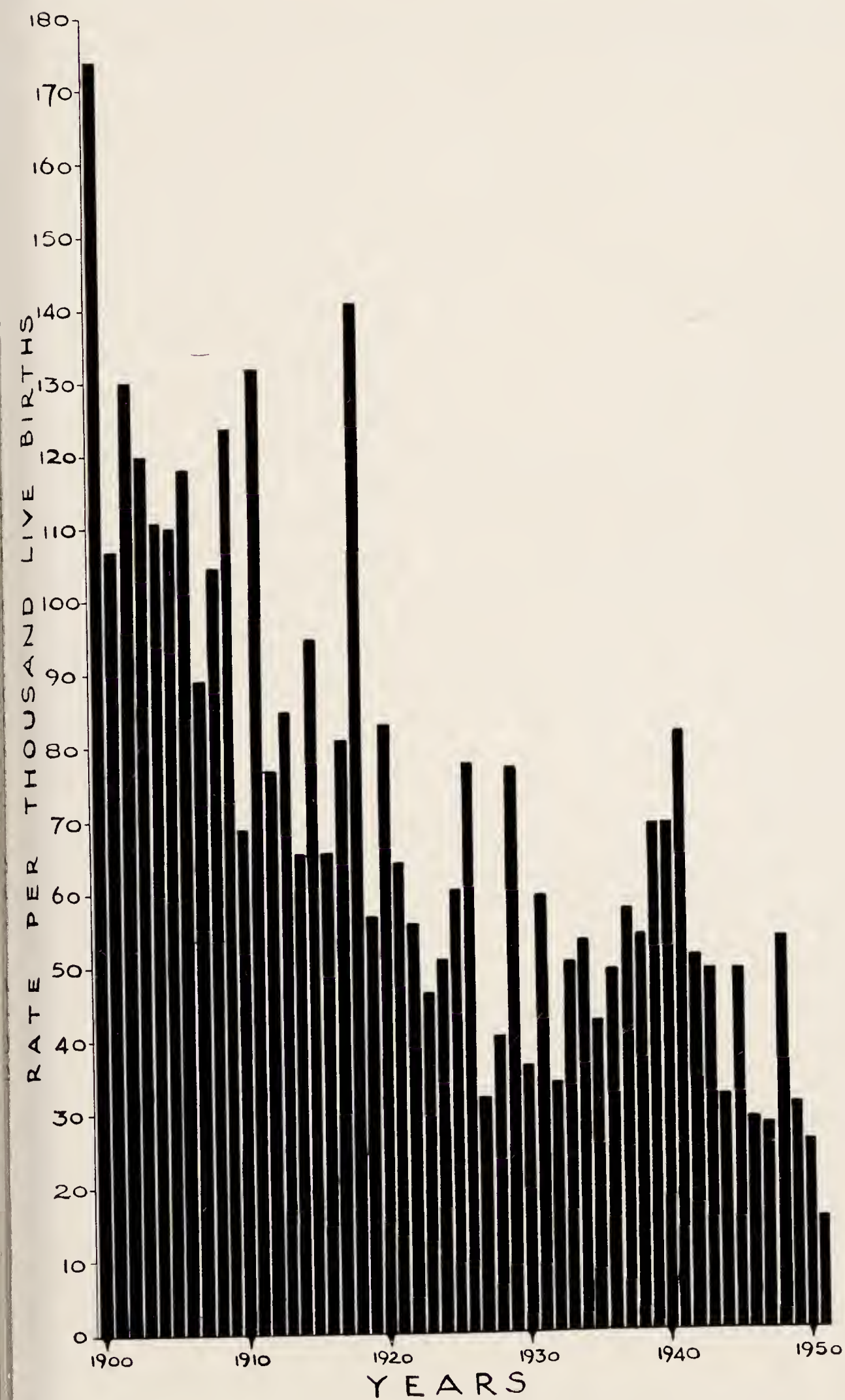
Deaths of Infants under one year of age:—

	<i>Males</i>	<i>Females</i>	<i>Total</i>
In Total Live Births ... ..	7	6	13

The number of deaths of infants under one year has decreased from 21 during 1950 to 13 during 1951. The rate per 1,000 live births for the year under review is 15.20, which compares favourably with the figure of 29.6 for England and Wales.



This diagram shows the fall in the infant mortality rate since the year 1900.



## CAUSES OF DEATH

The following table shows causes of death as given in the Registrar-General's statistics.

Cause of Death	No. of Deaths		
	Male	Female	Total
Tuberculosis, respiratory ... ..	8	3	11
Tuberculosis, other ... ..	—	1	1
Syphilitic disease ... ..	1	—	1
Diphtheria ... ..	—	—	—
Whooping cough ... ..	1	—	1
Meningococcal infections ... ..	—	—	—
Acute poliomyelitis ... ..	—	—	—
Measles ... ..	—	—	—
Other infective and parasitic diseases	—	—	—
Malignant neoplasm, stomach ...	5	6	11
Malignant neoplasm, lung, bronchus	17	2	19
Malignant neoplasm, breast ... ..	1	6	7
Malignant neoplasm, uterus ... ..	—	4	4
Other malignant & lymphatic neoplasms	25	27	52
Leukaemia, aleukaemia ... ..	2	—	2
Diabetes ... ..	—	—	—
Vascular lesions of nervous system ...	24	29	53
Coronary disease, angina ... ..	38	24	62
Hypertension with heart disease ...	3	8	11
Other heart disease ... ..	28	53	81
Other circulatory disease ... ..	8	8	16
Influenza ... ..	9	14	23
Pneumonia ... ..	12	15	27
Bronchitis ... ..	20	10	30
Other disease of respiratory system ...	3	4	7
Ulcer of stomach and duodenum ...	3	—	3
Gastritis, enteritis and diarrhoea ...	1	2	3
Nephritis and nephrosis ... ..	6	6	12
Hyperplasia of prostate ... ..	4	—	4
Pregnancy, childbirth, abortion ...	—	—	—
Congenital malformations ... ..	3	1	4
Other defined and ill-defined diseases	20	15	35
Motor vehicle accidents ... ..	9	—	9
All other accidents ... ..	5	7	12
Suicide ... ..	2	1	3
Homicide and operations of war ...	1	—	1
All causes ... ..	259	246	505

# PREVALENCE OF AND CONTROL OVER INFECTIOUS DISEASE

## Classified List of Infectious Diseases Notified

### INFECTIOUS DISEASES

The following table shows the incidence of infectious diseases during 1951 and gives comparisons with the previous year.

Disease	Ages of Cases Notified								Total 1951	Total 1950	Total Cases Admitted to Hospital		Deaths	
	Under One Year	1 to 2	3 to 4	5 to 9	10 to 14	15 to 24	25 and over	Age un- known			1951	1950	1951	1950
Scarlet Fever ...	1	4	7	32	2	5	1	—	52	165	8	28	—	—
Diphtheria ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Typhoid Fever ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Paratyphoid " B " Fever	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Dysentery ...	1	2	1	2	1	—	1	—	8	4	1	2	—	—
Erysipelas... ..	—	—	2	—	2	1	18	—	23	21	1	1	—	—
Puerperal Pyrexia ...	—	—	—	—	—	3	5	—	8	3	6	3	—	—
Cerebro-spinal Meningitis	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	43	—	—	—	—
Pneumonia ...	4	6	1	11	2	6	47	1	78	—	39	23	27	17
Smallpox ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Tuberculosis (Pulmonary)	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
" (Non-Pulmonary	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Poliomyelitis (Paralytic)	—	1	—	—	—	—	1	—	2	17	2	17	—	—
" (Non-Paralytic) ...	—	1	1	2	—	—	—	—	4	3	4	3	—	—
Acute Encephalitis	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
(Infective) ...	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
(Post Infectious)	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	2	—	2	—	—	—
Measles ...	17	187	224	326	6	3	3	—	766	484	8	5	—	—
Whooping Cough ...	6	37	42	77	3	—	3	—	168	124	2	3	1	—
Food Poisoning ...	1	—	—	—	—	1	2	—	4	1	1	1	—	—

## TUBERCULOSIS.

AGE PERIODS	NEW CASES					
	Pulmonary			Non-Pulmonary		
	Males	Females	Total	Males	Females	Total
0—1	1	1	2	—	—	—
1—5	—	2	2	—	1	1
5—15	5	2	7	2	3	5
15—25	4	20	24	1	1	2
25—35	10	10	20	—	1	1
35—45	7	4	11	1	1	2
45—55	7	2	9	—	—	—
55—65	4	1	5	—	—	—
65 and up	2	—	2	—	—	—
TOTALS	40	42	82	4	7	11

AGE PERIODS	DEATHS					
	Pulmonary			Non-Pulmonary		
	Males	Females	Total	Males	Females	Total
0—1	—	—	—	—	1	1
1—5	—	—	—	—	—	—
5—15	—	—	—	—	—	—
15—25	1	—	1	—	—	—
25—35	1	2	3	—	—	—
35—45	1	1	2	—	—	—
45—55	—	—	—	—	—	—
55—65	3	—	3	—	—	—
65 and up	2	—	2	—	—	—
TOTALS	8	3	11	—	1	1

Of the total of 82 new cases of pulmonary tuberculosis added to the register during the year, 25 were transferred from other districts.



# REPORT OF CHIEF SANITARY INSPECTOR

## SUMMARY OF INSPECTIONS AND ADMINISTRATIVE DUTIES

The following summary shows the inspections and other duties carried out by the Inspectorate during the year 1951, when a total of 9,123 visits were made.

Houses inspected under Housing Act	...	...	365
Premises visited under Public Health Acts	...	...	493
Re-visits to houses and other premises	...	...	1,531
Visits to works in progress	...	...	458
Unclassified visits	...	...	420
Visits to factories	...	...	255
„ outworkers' premises	...	...	71
„ food premises (see table on page 17)	...	...	2,172
„ slaughterhouses	...	...	46
„ piggeries	...	...	63
„ gypsy encampments and caravans	...	...	470
„ tents, vans, sheds	...	...	17
„ common lodging houses	...	...	7
„ school premises	...	...	28
„ public conveniences	...	...	269
„ swimming pool	...	...	12
„ petroleum installations	...	...	167
„ canal boats	...	...	5
Visits re Shops Acts	...	...	63
„ imported food	...	...	33
„ unsound food	...	...	350
„ nuisances from animals	...	...	39
„ accumulations of refuse	...	...	97
„ water supply	...	...	241
„ drainage and cesspools	...	...	324
„ ponds and ditches	...	...	10
„ rats and mice	...	...	227
„ insect pests	...	...	64
„ infectious diseases	...	...	101
„ alleged overcrowding	...	...	19
„ Council houses	...	...	43
„ permitted numbers of occupants	...	...	11
„ smoke nuisances	...	...	53
Smoke observations	...	...	36
Council houses inspected	...	...	37
Water samples taken	...	...	84
Milk samples taken	...	...	30
Ice cream samples taken	...	...	60
Interviews	...	...	352

Informal Notices served ... ..	435
Statutory Notices served ... ..	19

## HOUSING

### 1.—INSPECTION OF DWELLING HOUSES DURING THE YEAR.

(1) (a) Total number of dwelling houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts) ... ..	407
(b) Number of inspections made for the purpose ...	678
(2) (a) Number of dwelling houses (included in sub-head (1) above) which were inspected and recorded under the Housing(Consolidated)Regulations, 1925 and 1932 ... ..	Nil
(b) Number of inspections made for the purpose ...	Nil
(3) Number of dwelling houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation ... ..	5
(4) Number of dwelling houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-heading) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation ... ..	228

### 2.—REMEDY OF DEFECTS DURING THE YEAR WITHOUT SERVICE OF FORMAL NOTICES.

Number of defective dwelling houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their officers ... ..	183
--	-----

### 3.—ACTION UNDER STATUTORY POWERS.

#### (a) *Proceedings under Sections 9, 10 & 16 of the Housing Act, 1936.*

(1) Number of dwelling houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs ...	7
(2) Number of dwelling houses which were rendered fit after service of formal notices:	
(a) By owners... ..	4
(b) By Local Authority in default of owners ... ..	Nil

#### (b) *Proceedings under Public Health Acts.*

(1) Number of dwelling houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied ... ..	9
(2) Number of dwelling houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices:	
(a) By owners ... ..	10
(b) By Local Authority in default of owners ... ..	Nil

#### (c) *Proceedings under Sections 11 and 13 of the Housing Act, 1936.*

(1) Number of dwelling houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made ... ..	One
--	-----

(2) Number of dwelling houses demolished in  
pursuance of Demolition Orders ... Nil

(d) *Proceedings under Section 12 of the Housing Act, 1936.*

(1) Number of separate tenements or underground  
rooms in respect of which Closing Orders  
were made ... One

(2) Number of separate tenements or underground  
rooms in respect of which Closing Orders  
were determined, the tenement or room  
having been rendered fit ... Nil

---

With reference to the five properties in Item 1 (3) above,  
the following action was taken:—

- (i) In respect of the under-mentioned property no objection was made by the owner to the making of a Demolition Order, and the property was demolished in June, 1952:

Kent Cottage, The Green, Harefield.

- (ii) In respect of the under-mentioned properties undertakings were given in accordance with Section 11 of the Housing Act, 1936, and accepted by the Council, that the premises would not be used for human habitation until they were either demolished or works of repair carried out which would render the houses fit to be used as living accommodation:

2 and 9, Rockingham Road, Uxbridge.

Briar Cottage, Grove Lane, Hillingdon.

The two properties in Rockingham Road were included in a statutory resolution under Section 25 of the Housing Act, 1936, passed by the Council in 1939, in respect of 143 houses comprised in 16 projected Clearance Areas, further action being suspended on the outbreak of war.

- (iii) An undertaking in the terms set out in sub-paragraph (i) above, was given in respect of the under-mentioned property, but in this instance the owner submitted proposals for re-conditioning. Following completion of the agreed works of repair the premises were rendered fit for human habitation and, accordingly, the undertaking was cancelled by the Council:

46, St. John's Road, Uxbridge.



## NUISANCES

Eight hundred and thirty-six individual complaints were received relating to the following matters:—

Insanitary condition of house	...	...	25
General defects	...	...	38
Defective chimneys and fireplaces	...	...	21
„ walls and ceilings	...	...	8
„ floors	...	...	11
„ roofs and guttering	...	...	29
„ doors and windows	...	...	7
„ drains and sanitary fittings	...	...	103
„ water storage tanks and fittings	...	...	27
„ sinks and wash-hand basins	...	...	3
„ dustbins	...	...	26
Nuisance from dampness	...	...	55
Overcrowding	...	...	4
Verminous premises	...	...	14
Wasps' Nests	...	...	52
Accumulation of refuse or manure	...	...	24
Nuisance from keeping animals	...	...	17
„ „ gypsies	...	...	25
„ „ rats or mice	...	...	287
„ „ ponds or ditches	...	...	2
„ „ insect pests	...	...	19
Miscellaneous nuisances	...	...	39

## FACTORIES

The following tables show the number of inspections made, defects found, and the result of action taken.

### 1. INSPECTION OF FACTORIES.

Premises	Number on Register	Number of		
		Inspec- tions	Written notices	Occupier prosecuted
(i) Factories in which sections 1, 2, 3, 4, and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authority ...	22	19	1	—
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which section 7 is enforced by Local Authority ...	149	232	22	—
(iii) Other premises in which section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding outworkers' premises) ...	4	4	—	—
TOTAL ...	175	255	23	—



## 2. DEFECTS FOUND IN FACTORIES.

Particulars	Number of cases in which defects were found				No. of cases in which prosecutions were instituted
	Found	Remedied	Referred		
			To H.M. Insp.	By H.M. Insp.	
Want of cleanliness (S.1)...	1	1	—	—	—
Overcrowding (S.2) ...	—	—	—	—	—
Unreasonable Temperature (S.3) ... ..	—	—	—	—	—
Inadequate ventilation (S.4) ... ..	—	—	—	—	—
Ineffective drainage of floors (S.6) ... ..	—	—	—	—	—
Sanitary Conveniences (S.7)					
(a) Insufficient ...	—	—	—	—	—
(b) Unsuitable or defective ... ..	22	21	—	—	—
(c) Not separate for sexes	—	—	—	—	—
Other offences against the Act (not including offences relating to home work) ... ..	—	—	4	—	—
TOTAL ... ..	23	22	4	—	—

## 3. HOME-WORK.

During the year seventy-one visits of inspection were made to the homes of outworkers residing in the District ; all the premises were found to be in a satisfactory condition.

## PETROLEUM INSTALLATIONS

During the year 167 visits were paid to the ninety-three premises licensed for the storage of petroleum spirit, petroleum mixtures and carbide of calcium. No serious breaches of licence conditions were observed.

## SMOKE ABATEMENT

Uxbridge is a residential area and there are relatively few boiler installations in the District. This fact tends to emphasise any unusual emission of smoke, and periodically complaints are received concerning what is regarded by the public as a smoke nuisance.

A total of thirty-six timed observations were made during the year and on only one occasion smoke was observed to be emitted in such quantity as to be a nuisance.

For the purpose of recording smoke observations the standard of measurement used is that laid down by the Ministry of Health

Model Byelaw in relation to black smoke. Although this Byelaw is not in operation in Uxbridge it is considered reasonable that the degree of efficiency of industrial plant should be such as to be comparable to that required under the Byelaw.

**WATER SUPPLY**

The piped water supply of the District is provided from the mains of the Rickmansworth and Uxbridge Valley Water Company, and has been adequate for the requirements of the District.

During the year fifteen samples of water have been taken in the Uxbridge town area, the district formerly served by the Council's water undertaking, and twenty-one samples taken in the outer areas. In addition, six samples were taken from the stand-pipe at a caravan site and, following complaints received concerning either colour, taste or smell present in the water, four samples were collected from private houses in different parts of the area. All of the foregoing forty-six samples taken were submitted to the Regional Public Health Laboratory for examination. Each was found to be of high bacterial purity and safe for drinking purposes.

The number of dwelling-houses and the population supplied from the public mains are estimated to be as follows:—

	<i>Number of</i> <i>Dwelling-houses</i>	<i>Population</i>
Direct to the house ...	14,503	54,763
By means of stand-pipes	71	262

During the year eight samples were taken from three shallow wells supplying four cottages. Of these one well was found to be satisfactory and two were reported as unsatisfactory. Notices were served requiring the provision of a proper piped supply from the public mains, and at the time of writing this report the work is in hand.

A new water supply service, including reservoir and pumping equipment, was completed at Harefield Hospital during the year. At the request of the North West Metropolitan Regional Hospital Board a series of samples was taken from the new system and, following satisfactory test results, the new plant was put into operation.

Subsequent routine check sampling was carried out with satisfactory results, and in all during the year seventeen samples were taken from this source.

**SWIMMING POOL**

The Council's swimming pool was open to the public during the season May to September.

The stabilising effect of the variable chemical dosing plant installed in 1948 again proved its worth during the year in maintaining a balanced water in the pool. Samples were taken at

frequent intervals during the season to establish the degree of free chlorine present in the water.

In addition, two samples of pool water were taken for bacterial examination at the Regional Public Health Laboratory and were reported to be virtually sterile and equal bacteriologically to a mains drinking supply.

**FOOD HYGIENE**

During the year the district sanitary inspectors continued to give close supervision to food premises in the area, and in addition the services of one qualified sanitary inspector were again allocated to this work on a whole-time basis.

The Clean Food Byelaws adopted by the Council came into force on 9th April, 1950, and in operation the additional control offered by the Byelaws has proved a most welcome supplement to the powers contained in Section 13 of the Food and Drugs Act, 1936.

The following tables indicate the number and variety of premises visited during the year and the action taken:—

(a) INSPECTION OF FOOD PREMISES.

Type of Premises	Premises		Visits Made	Notices Served
	Total No.	Inspected		
Restaurants and Cafes ...	67	64	336	22
Industrial Canteens ...	41	33	71	13
Ice Cream Premises ...	96	84	328	11
Licensed Premises ...	67	44	56	4
Dairies and Milk Distributors' Premises ...	8	8	48	17
Preserved Food Premises ...	17	17	198	—
Bakehouses ...	13	13	65	5
Bakers' Shops ...	15	15	32	2
Butchers' Shops ...	34	32	242	11
Grocer Shops and Wholesale Depots ...	99	75	405	22
Wet Fish Shops ...	11	11	57	7
Fried Fish Shops ...	10	10	27	3
Confectioners' Shops ...	149	87	186	4
Greengrocers' Shops ...	30	21	76	10
Food Hawkers' Premises ...	13	9	45	—
TOTALS	670	523	2,172	131

(b) DEFECTS REMEDIED.

*Water Closets :*

Insufficient closet accommodation	...	...	2
Defective walls, floors or roofs	...	...	5
Want of light and ventilation	...	...	4
Defective urinals	...	...	1
Insanitary conditions	...	...	3
Lack of or defective intervening space	...	...	1



<i>Water Supply :</i>								
Defective fittings	...	...	...	...			2	
							—	2
<i>Drainage :</i>								
Defective drains	...	...	...	...	...		9	
Defective or insufficient gullies	...	...	...	...	...		4	
Defective manholes	...	...	...	...	...		2	
							—	15
<i>Sinks :</i>								
Defective or insanitary sinks	...	...	...	...	...		18	
Want of sink	...	...	...	...	...		2	
Hot water required to sink	...	...	...	...	...		9	
Cold water required to sink	...	...	...	...	...		5	
Defective waste pipes	...	...	...	...	...		5	
							—	39
<i>Washing Facilities for Staff :</i>								
Absence of or defective hand basin	...	...	...	...	...		12	
Absence of hot water	...	...	...	...	...		17	
Absence of cold water	...	...	...	...	...		14	
Provision of towels and soap	...	...	...	...	...		17	
							—	60
<i>Uncleanliness :</i>								
Kitchens	...	...	...	...	...	...	3	
Food Stores	...	...	...	...	...	...	17	
Preparation Rooms	...	...	...	...	...	...	3	
Food delivery vans	...	...	...	...	...	...	2	
Refrigerators	...	...	...	...	...	...	7	
Handling of Foodstuffs	...	...	...	...	...	...	14	
							—	46
<i>Utensils :</i>								
Defective	...	...	...	...	...	...	12	
Unclean	...	...	...	...	...	...	22	
							—	34
<i>Refuse :</i>								
Defective or insufficient dustbins	...	...	...	...	...	...	5	
Accumulations of offensive matter	...	...	...	...	...	...	8	
							—	13
<i>Rats and Mice :</i>								
Number of infestations	...	...	...	...	...	...	34	
							—	34



### *General Defects :*

Defective roofs	...	...	...	...	...	2	
Defective external brickwork	...	...	...	...	...	2	
Defective plaster (Number of rooms)	...	...	...	...	...	3	
Insanitary condition of walls and ceilings (Number of rooms)	...	...	...	...	...	35	
Defective floors	...	...	...	...	...	6	
Defective doors and windows	...	...	...	...	...	6	
Defective food stores	...	...	...	...	...	2	
Inadequate ventilation (Number of rooms)	...	...	...	...	...	1	
Inadequate lighting (Number of rooms)	...	...	...	...	...	2	
Defective yard paving	...	...	...	...	...	2	
						—	61

### *Ice Cream :*

Unhygienic serving methods	...	...	...	...	...	5	
						—	5

### *Milk :*

Milk bottles deposited on pavements, etc.	...	...	...	...	...	12	
						—	12

### *Wrapping Paper :*

Use of unclean wrapping paper	...	...	...	...	...	1	
						—	1

### *Animals :*

Nuisance from keeping of animals	...	...	...	...	...	2	
						—	2

Miscellaneous	...	...	...	...	...	...	10	
							—	10

TOTAL 350

As in previous years the foregoing list once again indicates that a considerable amount of work has been carried out in inspecting the various food premises and effecting improvements. In assessing its worth regard should be had to the amount of advice and instruction given by the inspectorate which cannot be recorded in terms of "defects remedied," but which, nevertheless, is a most valuable contribution to this work.

### (c) MEAT INSPECTION.

#### (i) Butchers' Shops.

During the year 788 lbs. of fresh meat, home killed and imported, was found to be unfit for human consumption and destroyed.

In August and September of the year under review many complaints were received from both the butchers and the public

regarding the condition of meat supplied to them in this area. The complaints referred to home killed beef and on investigation it was found that some meat was delivered to the establishments in a decomposing condition due to unsatisfactory preparation methods at the slaughterhouse or soiling either during preparation or transportation to the shops.

The matter was taken up with the Ministry of Food and correspondence passed between that Ministry and the Council.

Subsequent inspections were made of meat deliveries and the Council were informed that some improvement had been observed.

(ii) *Slaughterhouses.*

There is one slaughterhouse in the area where pigs are killed under licence of the Ministry of Food, while an occasional emergency slaughter takes place at another slaughterhouse. The following table shows the number of animals slaughtered during the year. In all cases the carcase and organs were inspected.

	Cattle, excluding Cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs
Number killed ... ..	—	—	—	—	118
Number inspected ... ..	—	—	—	—	118
<i>All diseases except Tuberculosis</i>					
Whole carcases condemned ...					—
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned ...					—
Percentage of the number in- spected affected with disease other than tuberculosis ...					—
<i>Tuberculosis only</i>					
Whole carcases condemned ...					—
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned ...					2
Percentage of the number in- spected affected with tuber- culosis ... ..					1·7%

The total weight of diseased and unsound meat included in the above table is shown below:—

Class of Animal	Tuberculosis			Other Diseases			Total lbs.
	No. of animals		lbs.	No. of animals		lbs.	
	Whole carcase	Part carcase and offals		Whole carcase	Part carcase and offals		
Pigs	—	2	29	—	—	—	29

(d) UNSOUND FOOD.

(i) The total amount of food surrendered for destruction during the year was 6 tons 5 cwts. 15 lbs., as shown in the following table. This food was disposed of in accordance with the salvage instructions of the Ministry of Food.

<i>Class of Food</i>	<i>No. of lbs.</i>	<i>Class of Food.</i>	<i>No. of lbs.</i>
Meat—tinned	... 4,427	Tea ... ..	... 1
Rabbits—imported	... 30	Fruit—tinned	... 3,467
Bacon ... ..	... 51	Fruit—dried	... 308
Soup—tinned	... 290	Vegetables—tinned	... 986
Fish—tinned	... 75	Sugar ... ..	... 76
Fish—wet	... 2,012	Confectionery	... 318
Butter and Margarine	... 67	Jam and Marmalade	... 396
Cooking Fat	... 16	Cereals, Flour and Cakes	239
Cheese	... 126	Pickles and Sauces	... 20
Milk—tinned	... 400	Salt ... ..	... 144
Milk—dried	... 112	Poultry	... 16
Ice Cream Powder	... 371	Eggs, Dried	... 4
Cream—tinned	... 43	Eggs, Shell	... 157 eggs.

The greater part of the foregoing foodstuffs were inspected after distribution for retail sale necessitating detailed examination at various food premises throughout the District.

There is continued close co-operation between the Public Health Department and the Local and Divisional Offices of the Ministry of Food.

(e) PUBLIC HEALTH (IMPORTED FOOD) REGULATIONS, 1937.

Northolt Airport, which is situated in part within the area of this authority, is a Customs Port and the administrative buildings are in the Uxbridge Urban District. This local authority is, therefore, a "sanitary authority" for the purposes of the above Regulations, which prohibit the importation of certain articles of food into this country and lay down conditions which must be observed in respect of other foodstuffs.

During the year there has been steady activity in the Department in connection with food products imported into this country through Northolt Airport. A total of 1 ton 19 cwts. 92 lbs. of foodstuffs was dealt with. A large proportion of this consisted of relatively small quantities imported as samples, subsequent bulk orders being imported by sea.

The enforcement of these Regulations has been helped by the effective co-operation of H.M. Customs Officers and the Import Cargo Section of British European Airways at the Airport.



## MILK SUPPLY

The responsibilities of this Authority under the Milk and Dairies Acts and Orders are limited to the supervision of dairies and retail distributors' premises, in respect of which forty-eight visits were made during the year.

### (a) PREMISES AND DISTRIBUTORS.

The following table shows the number of registered premises and distributors within the district:—

Dairies	...	...	...	...	...	1
Retail Distributors			...	...	...	7
Retail Distributors from other Districts					...	6

In addition one of the producers now licensed by the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries is also a retail distributor of milk.

Twenty-one principal and eight supplementary licences were granted for the sale of designated milks.

### (b) MILK IN SCHOOLS SCHEME.

As in previous years, samples of milk have been taken at regular intervals from the various schools in the area, which are supplied by three different retailers.

Thirty such samples were taken for examination by the methylene blue and phosphatase tests in the laboratory of the Public Health Department, and all passed these tests, which is most satisfactory. Copies of all reports on samples of school milk are sent to the County Area Medical Officer.

All samples of milk taken were found to contain milk-fat and milk solids other than milk-fat in excess of the minimum required by the Sale of Milk Regulations, 1939.

## ICE CREAM

During the year sixty samples of ice cream were examined by the methylene blue reduction test in the laboratory of the Public Health Department. As in previous years, a percentage of these samples were duplicated and submitted, for control purposes, to the Government Public Health Laboratory at Neasden. Details of the results of these examinations are as follows:—

<i>Grade</i>					<i>No. of Samples</i>
I	...	...	...	...	32
II	...	...	...	...	12
III	...	...	...	...	9
IV	...	...	...	...	7



In the case of the Grade IV samples the matter was taken up with the retailer, when the trouble was generally found to be due to unhygienic serving methods.

In the case of each new application, before recommending that the premises be registered, an inspection was made to ensure that the requirements of Section 13 of the Food and Drugs Act, 1938 (relating to provisions as to rooms where food is prepared or stored and the precautions taken to guard against contamination of food) were complied with, and that the requirements of the Ice Cream (Heat Treatment) Regulations, 1947, regarding temperature control, etc., were fully observed.

There are 96 premises where ice cream is stored or sold, and a total of 328 visits were made to such premises during the year.

### **DISINFECTION**

Steam disinfections have been carried out at the Council's plant at Cowley Mill Road following the occurrence of certain diseases during the year. The installation has again been inspected by the Council's insurers and found to be maintained in good working order.

Home disinfections have been carried out following the occurrence of certain infectious and other specified diseases.

### **DISINFESTATION**

During the year eleven disinfestations were carried out at bug-infested Council houses and private dwellings.

As in previous years, new Council houses were sprayed with Gammexane insecticide prior to occupation. In 1951 266 such new houses were so treated, and in 75 instances where existing Council houses became vacant, these were similarly treated before being re-let.

This routine treatment has been in operation for nearly five years and the marked decline in the number of Council houses found to require treatment for bugs justifies the continuation of this method of control.

### **MOSQUITO CONTROL**

As in previous years, the many watercourses, lakes, ponds, ditches, etc., throughout the district were treated with a larvaecide.

It is always difficult to assess the real worth of this work but the materials used are those which have proved most successful in mosquito control in prolonged tests carried out during and since the war by research laboratories and the Services, and it is reasonable to suppose that some benefit must be derived from this work.

## **RODENT CONTROL**

The rodent control section of the Public Health Department continued to operate, and works of disinfestation were carried out at factories, wholesale depots, business premises and private dwelling-houses. Works were also carried out at the Council's refuse tip, depots and premises.

The majority of the infestations investigated on business and private premises were found to be of minor character. Of the complaints received an increased proportion related to premises infested with mice.

In continuance of the treatment of sewers first carried out in 1944 and repeated each year, two further maintenance treatments of the sewers in the town area of Uxbridge and the outer areas of the district were carried out in May and November, 1951. Systematic baiting and poisoning campaigns took place and all areas of infestation detected were dealt with.

## **PATHOLOGICAL WORK**

All material requiring pathological examination is sent to the Neasden Public Health Laboratory. The distance involved results in some restriction of facility formerly at the disposal of the Department when this work was undertaken by the Hampstead Laboratory at the Uxbridge Cottage Hospital, and it is still hoped that the proposal to establish a Public Health Laboratory within the district will materialise in the near future.